

Reason No. 7: Wall Street could use a total meltdown of Asian stock markets.

Reason No. 6: Ralph Nader and Pat Buchanan agree. Can they both be wrong?

Reason No. 5: Fast track does not let United States Congress set the minimum wage in Portugal.

Reason No. 4: 1998 Nobel Prize winner for economics, Ross Perot.

Reason No. 3: My vision for our 21st century economy, manual typewriters, rotary telephones, and black-and-white televisions.

Reason No. 2: John Sweeney told me to.

And reason No. 1: Mr. Speaker, I want a better fast track, a better balanced budget, a better tax cut, and better welfare reform.

END HARASSMENT OF MS. SANCHEZ

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, when Abraham Lincoln formed the Republican Party, one of the groups that he had to deal with in putting his coalition together was the nativist movement in this country called the "Know Nothing Party." They hated two groups: The Irish, who spoke Gaelic and were Catholic; and the Germans, who spoke German and were Catholic.

That root has been in the Republican Party from the very start. It is what drove millions of immigrants into the Democratic Party. All the southern Europeans who came to this country became Democrats because they knew the Republicans did not want them. And now we are after the Asians and the Hispanics. A prime example of that is the harassment of the gentlewoman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ].

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues, on behalf of their party and this country, that they take the leadership in ending this harassment of a Member of this House, who was duly elected, certified by the State of California, and has been forced to spend \$300,000 or more defending that seat. End it, Mr. Speaker. You can lead us.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY, LET US WORK FOR TAX RELIEF

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, sometimes on particular issues, the distinctions between the Democrat and Republican Party are blurred. But when it comes to taxes, there is absolutely no doubt.

What does the leading Democrat in the United States of America have to say about tax cuts? They are selfish. Good gracious, you might use the money to buy your child new braces.

What did he say? He said several issues here again. What does the deputy secretary of treasury under Clinton say? When it comes to estate taxes, there is no case other than selfishness necessary.

That means, if we work hard all our lives and we want to pass the family farm on to our son or daughter so he or she can continue to plow the fields that our grandparents walked in, that means we are selfish. And then what does the leading Senate Democrat say, TOM DASCHLE? "But certainly I don't think that many people are over-taxed."

Now, go tell that to the people who are working 60, 70 hours a week, working overtime, the man and woman passing like ships in the night trying to make ends meet, buying new tires, repairing the dryer, trying to pay the home mortgage. Tell them that they are being undertaxed and they are being selfish because they want more.

Please, Democratic Party, join the American people and let us work for tax relief.

DORNAN-SANCHEZ CONTESTED ELECTION

(Mr. MENENDEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, 1 year after the election of the gentlewoman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ] to this House and her investigation continues by this House, we went from a witch hunt that started with a half a million questionable individuals, allegedly, to last night's revelation that we are down to 1,000 individuals and still counting downwards.

Democrats welcome the opportunity of the U.S. attorney's investigation in California into the broader questions. We welcome that. We want to see what he has got to say. And we welcome any broader voter fraud question. But what we do not welcome is the continuous use of hundreds of thousands of taxpayers' dollars that our conservative friends on the Republican side are always wanting to save, and we agree with them.

Why do they not want to save it in this case? The reason they do not want to save it is because they want to use taxpayer dollars to do what their history has done in their own State of California where they were fined \$600,000 for voter suppression and voter intimidation.

Stop abusing the taxpayers' money.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). The Chair would observe that the rules provide for a 1-minute speech, and the Chair would ask Members to stay within that time limit.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 568-571 earlier this week. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 568 and 571 and "nay" on rollcall votes 569 and 570.

IT IS TIME TO CLEAN HOUSE AT IRS

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, just when we thought it could not get any worse, we find out about another outrage at the IRS. The deeper we dig, the more we find out that the IRS is a rogue agency that abuses its power.

Congress asks, who is responsible? And what kind of response do we get from this administration's Treasury Department and from this White House? The same responses we got from this administration whenever they get caught in other wrongdoing: Denials and attempts to change the subject or their favorite expression that "mistakes were made" whenever they wish to avoid holding anyone accountable.

The same administration that somehow ended up with 900 FBI files of Republicans and cannot seem to recall just how that happened is the same administration that has done absolutely nothing in 4½ years to rein in an agency that is out of control. Politically motivated tax audits, replacing justice with revenue quotas, intimidating settlements on ordinary citizens who cannot afford lawyers, irresponsible bureaucrats who abuse their power. The list goes on and on.

It is time to clean the house at the IRS.

CONGRESS SHOULD ENACT D.C. APPROPRIATION

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, if this were a court, I would be forced to throw myself on the mercy of the court. Congress has an obligation to allow the Capital of the United States to spend its own money by enacting our appropriation.

Did my colleagues know that the District no longer gets a Federal payment under the rescue plan? Almost every dollar in the D.C. appropriation was raised in the District from the people I represent. Without an appropriation, there should be no appropriation subcommittee.

Did my colleagues know that there is no dispute over money? First there were vouchers. Now Republicans are fighting among themselves over an authorizing measure outside the jurisdiction of the appropriators. Ominously, the District's chief financial officer is